

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

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617-349-4692 voice · 617-492-0235 TTY · 617-349-4766 fax



Avril dePagter
Chair

Mary Devlin
Secretary

Loring Brinckerhoff
Gary Dmytryk
Jerry Friedman
Stelios Gragoudas
Valerie Hammond
Nicole Horton-Stimpson
Jackie Jones
Philibert Kongtcheu
Daniel Stubbs

Rachel Tanenhaus
Executive Director/
ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman
Project Coordinator

**The next meeting of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities
will be held online via Zoom on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 5:30 PM**

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO JOIN BY 5:30 PM

AGENDA

Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Introductions | 2 min. | |
| <i>If needed, alternates named</i> | | |
| 2. Announcements | 2 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 3. Approval of April 14 &
May 12 Minutes (see page 4 of agenda packet) | 4 min. | CCPD Board |
| 4. Language Justice Update | 30 min. | Nancy Tauber &
Kate Thurman |
| 5. Discussion on Member Interests | 15 min. | CCPD Board |
| 6. Chair's Report | 5 min. | Avril dePagter |
| <i>Vote on Summer Recess – July or August</i> | | |
| 7. Public Works Update | 10 min. | Jerry Friedman |
| 8. Executive Director's Report | 10 min. | Rachel Tanenhaus |
| 9. Old Business | 3 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 10. New Business | 3 min. | CCPD staff / Board |
| 11. Public Input | 3 min. | general public |
| <i>See pages 2&3 of this agenda packet for instructions on providing public comment</i> | | |

CART/closed captioning will be provided for this meeting

Captions can be turned on within the Zoom platform. Additionally, you may stream CART in a separate URL at <http://bit.ly/CCPDCART>
(captions will not appear until the meeting has started)

The City of Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, does not discriminate, including on the basis of disability. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request.

The next CCPD meeting will be held online on either Thursday, July 14 or August 11
(Summer recess to be voted on in today's meeting)

Members of the public: See instructions on following pages on how to watch the CCPD meeting and provide public comment via Zoom

Instructions on How to Join the June 9, 2022 CCPD Meeting as a Member of the Public

Join Online:

Registration is required in order to view the meeting or to participate in public comment. Register online at

https://cambridgema.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G3av78ypQeufg7JYJKOMBw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. For more information regarding Zoom technology visit:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/citycouncil/zoomonlinemeetinginstructions>

Join by Phone:

If you do not have access to the internet, you may also call into the meeting using a phone by dialing any of the following numbers and entering the Webinar ID (registration is not required). For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location:

+1 301 715 8592

+1 312 626 6799

+1 929 436 2866

+1 253 215 8782

+1 346 248 7799

+1 669 900 6833

When prompted, enter the webinar ID: **851 0357 9005**

NOTE: your microphone will be automatically muted until you are called on to speak during the public comment period of the meeting. See instructions on the following page for how to “raise your hand” in order to indicate that you would like to speak during the public comment period on the agenda.

Draft

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Meeting Minutes April 14, 2022

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Present:

Members: Phil Kongtcheu, Avril dePagter, Dan Stubbs, Stelios Gragoudas, Valerie Hammond, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, Jerry Friedman, Mary Devlin

Absent: Jackie Jones, Loring Brinckerhoff, Gary Dmytryk

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus, John Boyle (Police Department), Kathy Watkins (Department of Public Works); Andrew Wolfe (Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation), Brooke McKenna (Department of Traffic, Parking and Transportation)

Presentations:

- Kathy Watkins presented the *Public Works Five-Year Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction Plan*
 - She highlighted the updates, and reviewed the overall plan including priorities, scope of work, plan specifics, programs, design, construction and next steps.
 - The [Five-Year Sidewalk and Street Reconstruction Plan](#) can be viewed online.
- Andrew Wolfe and Brooke McKenna presented an update on the *Porter Square Safety Improvement Project*
 - The project includes the accessible parking on Mass Ave.
 - See attached presentation, *Porter Square Safety Improvement Project*, for details.

Minutes Approved:

A motion to approve the minutes for the February meeting was seconded and approved.

Nominations for Board Chair and Secretary:

- Rachel thanked Phil for his work as the Chair of the Board, and reminded the committee members that Gary's term was up so he could no longer serve as Secretary.
- She opened the nominations and noted that members could nominate themselves.
- No names were submitted.
- Rachel suggested members contact her if they want to nominate a candidate for Board Chair or Secretary.

- Elections will take place at the May meeting.

Chair's Report:

Phil shared with the committee that his company eMotionRX had presented in the Arc Tank 4.0, the Northeast Arc's philanthropic program which provides funding for organizations to *"create positive disruption to services for those with intellectual/developmental disabilities or autism."*

New/Old Business:

No new/old business.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Submitted by Mary Devlin

Minutes for Thursday, May 12, 2022

Online via Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Present:

Members: Loring Brinckerhoff, Avril de Pagter, Mary Devlin, Gary Dmytryk, Jerry Friedman, Stelios Gragoudas, Nicole Horton-Stimpson, and Dan Stubbs

Absent: Jackie Jones, Phil Kongtcheu, Valerie Hammond

Staff: Rachel Tanenhaus and Kate Thurman

Nominations & Elections:

- Dan & Loring each nominated Avril for Chair, and Mary for Secretary
- No other nominations were made
- Elections were held. All members present voted unanimously to elect Avril as Chair and Mary as Secretary

Public Works Update:

- Jerry reported that three projects have gone out to bid:
 - River Street reconstruction – from Memorial Drive to Central Square, and the Carl Barron Plaza. This project includes new sidewalks, roadway, bus lanes, separated bike lanes, and the addition of 45 new trees. The City is hoping to award this contract in July. Construction will take 30-36 months.
 - Huron Ave along the Fresh Pond Reservation from the field complex to Fresh Pond Parkway. This project will add sidewalks.
 - Belmont Street, near the Star Market on Mt. Auburn. This project includes new sidewalks, improved bus stops, and a dedicated section of bus lanes.
- Loring asked about the status of the funded Participatory Budgeting projects. Rachel will provide an update at the next meeting on what those projects are.
- Jerry reported that there is some infrastructure that's being planned for the Port neighborhood. A public walk will be held on Monday, May 16, meeting at Clement Morgan Park at 6:00 PM. Members of the public can join the 90-minute walk to learn about the history of the Port.
- Additionally, DPW and local neighborhood advocates are holding an event on June 25 that will be focused on art. The goal is to get youth interested in art, and there will be food from local chefs, as well as artists creating art.

Executive Director's Report:

- Rachel said that the Advisory Board typically votes to take the month of either July or August off; this vote will be held at the June meeting.
- She and Kate are attending the online National ADA Symposium this week. Federal agencies give updates on their perspectives of the ADA; there are workshops on case law that's happened in the past year, as well as on other issues that are relevant. This year, there have been many sessions on COVID and the ADA, reasonable accommodations, and the impact on programs and services for people with disabilities.
- Rachel reported speaking with graduate students at New York University who are writing a musical on the Section 504 sit-in in which people with disabilities took over a federal office in San Francisco for a month. They interviewed Rachel about it and are writing a musical about the sit-in.

- Rachel went with a Community Development Department (CDD) intern to look at the new MBTA Green Line stations in Union Square and Lechmere. CDD wants to write a guide for folks on how to navigate those areas. Rachel said that they got lost and couldn't find the buses at the Lechmere Station, indicating that the wayfinding in that area needs some work.
- She reported that the City has applied for a few variances from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) for the Tobin Montessori and Vassal Lane Upper Schools. After reviewing the variances, she wrote a letter of support.
- Rachel said that CCPD staff is working with the Election Commission and the Voting Rights Advocate at the Disability Law Center on accessible elections. The Commonwealth uses very old accessible voting machines, and barriers to access happen when the machines break. Unfortunately, the Secretary of State has not approved an alternative, so there is some advocacy to push the state to adopt newer technologies. The Cambridge Election Commission would like to speak at an upcoming CCPD meeting.
- The City is planning to construct a connector between Daneyh Park and New Street and a re-design of Linear Park. Rachel participated in a site walk to both sites. There is a public event on June 4th if anyone would like to learn more.
- The universally designed playground was dedicated a few weeks ago, named after Louis DePasquale
- Avril mentioned that the DOJ put out new guidelines on web accessibility and that CCPD's web page seems outdated. Kate mentioned that staff are working with the department's Communications Manager and Webmaster on website improvements.

Chair's Report:

- Loring asked Avril as the newly elected Chair to speak about her context within the disability community.
- Avril reported that she is originally from Buffalo, NY and was in the Deaf Studies Program at Boston University with a focus on sign language and the Deaf community. She then became a paraprofessional for a student with autism and apraxia, and then a teacher in a substantially separate special education class in Brookline. She is very interested in law and civil rights and education. Avril currently works in the Boston Public Schools as an Inclusive Practices Support Specialist. In this role, she supports teachers at about 15 schools. Additionally, Avril teaches an Introduction to Special Education course at Boston University. She has a PhD in Urban Education, Leadership, and Education Policy. Her research focused on substantially separate classrooms and the people who teach in them, studying the environmental and academic impacts of those spaces on public schools. She said that people with severe disabilities are defined in relation to false ideas due to ableism.

New Business:

- Loring said it would be nice to discuss at the June meeting ideas for things the Advisory Board can do within the community framework that they're not currently doing. He suggested agenda time for an open forum on brainstorming of priorities that members can share with one another.
- Loring mentioned the idea of bringing the film series back.
- Mary noted that Vinfen holds an annual film festival and mentioned the possibility of partnering with them on a film screening.
- Deputy Superintendent John Boyle said that he could speak with the Central Square Business Improvement District about holding an event there, as it's an outdoor space.
- John informed members that Memorial Day weekend is going to be very busy in the City. Harvard and MIT have graduations on May 26 and there will be a number of dignitaries in town. There will be some street closures and additional traffic. Boston Calling starts on May 27. While not in Cambridge, it does overwhelm the transit system and increases foot traffic in Cambridge. Additionally, CRLS graduation is being held on June 9 at Russell Field.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Thurman

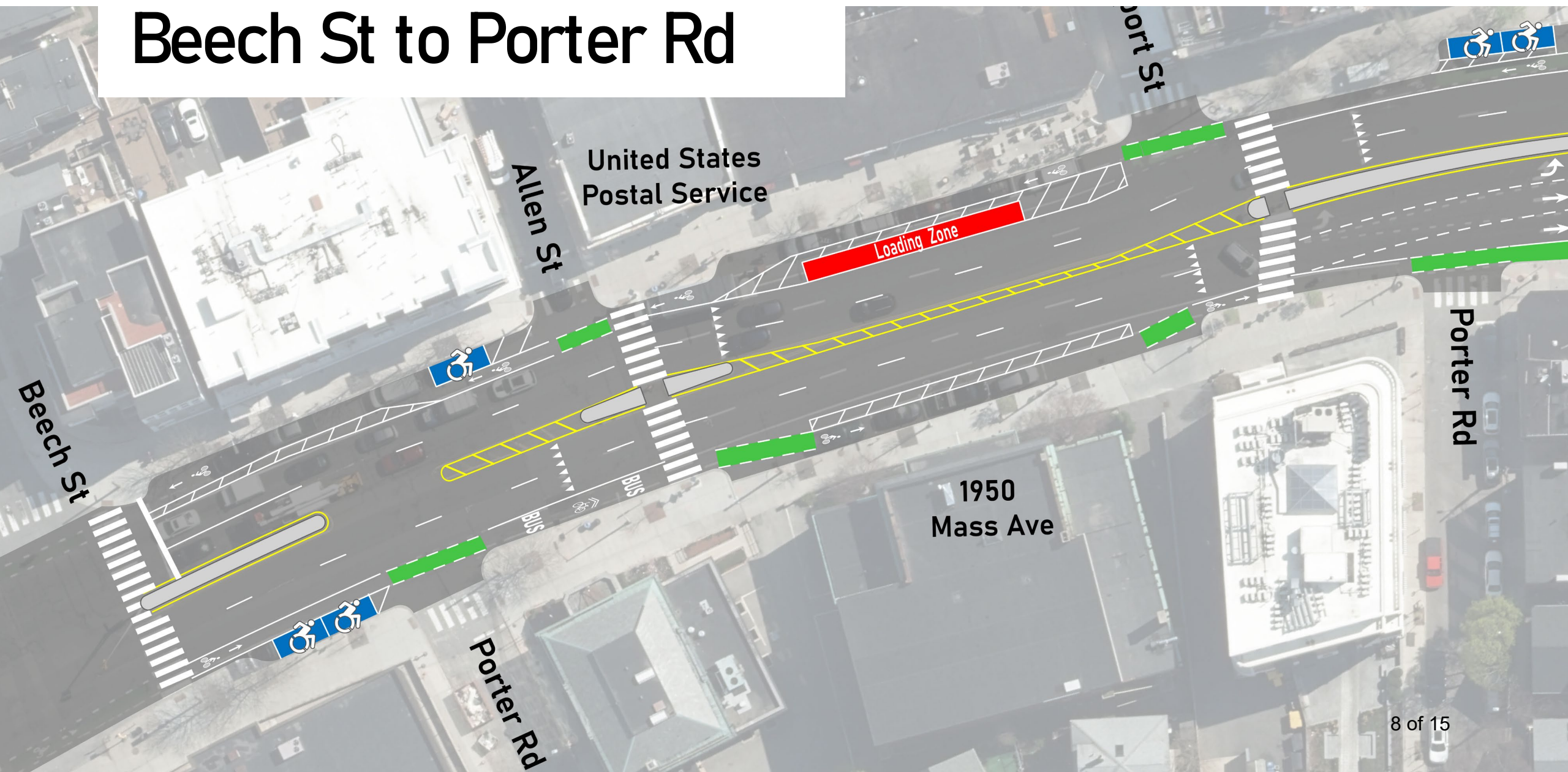


Porter Square Safety Improvement Project

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)

Thursday, April 14, 2022 | 6:00 p.m. | Zoom

Beech St to Porter Rd



Beech St to Porter Rd

Additional accessible/disability parking

- We are seeking opportunities to increase the number of accessible/disability parking spaces in this section of Mass Ave
- We can increase the total number of accessible/disability spaces north of Porter Square from 2 to 5
- The existing accessible/disability space in front of the Post Office may need to be relocated to a new location nearby
 - This allows for installation of a loading zone between Allen St and Davenport St

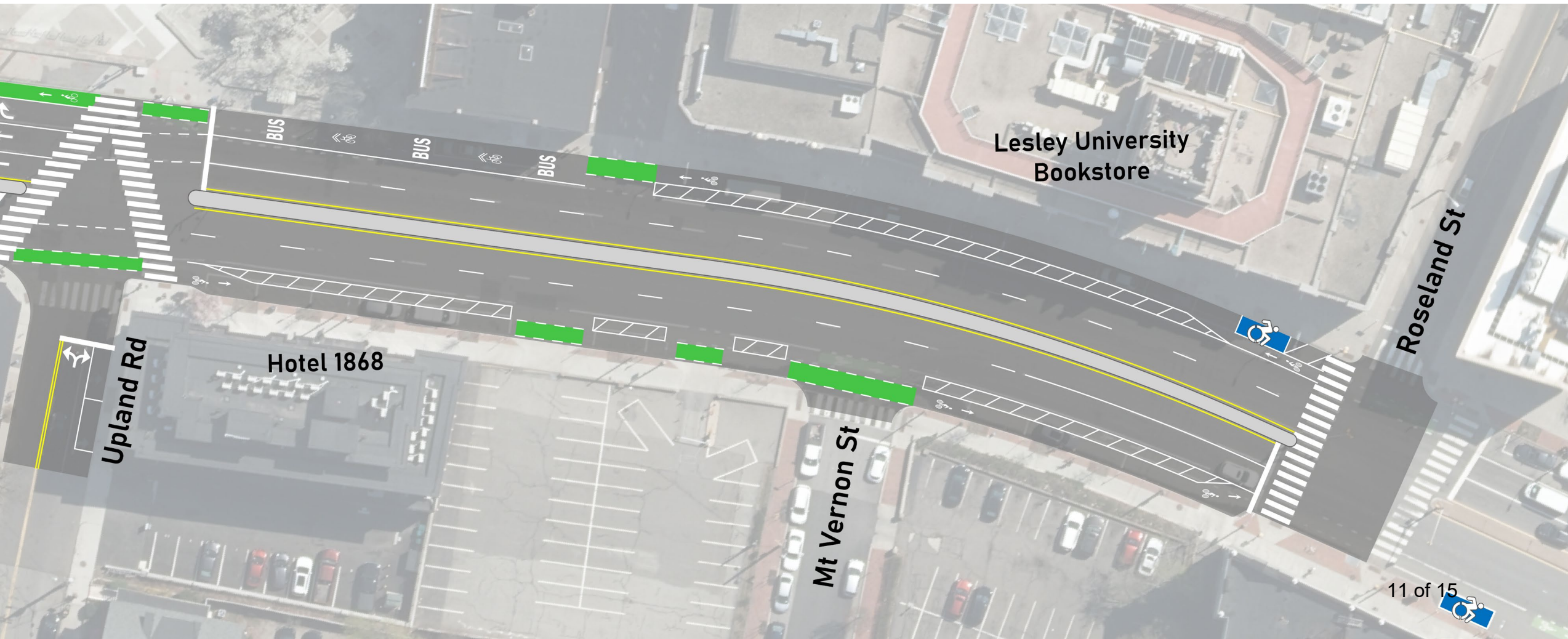


Davenport St

2-hour metered parking

- We are seeking opportunities to change parking regulations on side-streets
- We can add two 2-hour metered spaces on Davenport St
- This has no impact to residential parking
- We converted Davenport St to one-way last year. This lets us add parking

Upland Rd to Roseland St



Upland Rd to Roseland St

Additional accessible/disability parking

- We can increase the total number of accessible/disability spaces south of Porter Square from 0 to 2
- Both spaces will be located close to the crosswalk at Roseland St

Upland Rd

Loading and Valet

- We are seeking opportunities to change parking regulations on side-streets
- We can add two 2-hour metered spaces on Davenport Street
- This has no impact to residential parking
- We converted Davenport St to one-way last year. This lets us add parking

Mount Vernon St

Loading and Valet

- We are seeking opportunities to change parking regulations on side-streets
- We can add eight 2-hour metered spaces on Mount Vernon St
- This replaces residential parking
- No parking changes in front of residential homes

Transit – Routes 77 and 96

Lengthened bus stop at Porter Square Station

- Porter Square serves multiple bus routes
- We are making improvements to bus boarding to increase accessibility and rider experience
- The lengthened bus stop at Porter Square Station allows two buses to reach the curb at once